



Canyon Ferry and Hauser Reservoir April 10, 2001

TO: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 Director's Office
 Fisheries Division
 Wildlife Division
 Enforcement Division
 Legal Unit
 FWP Commissioners
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
Senator Duane Grimes, #4 Hole in the Wall Rd, Clancy, MT, 59634
Representative Dave Lewis, 5871 Collins Dr. Helena, MT 59602
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
David Payne, Missouri River TU, 4620 Liberty, Helena, MT 59601
Jack Sautter, Broadwater Stream & Lake Comm., 41 River Rd., Townsend, MT, 59644
John Wilson, Trout Unlimited, 405 Monroe, Helena, MT 59601
Virgil Binkley, Broadwater Rod and Gun, PO Box 641, Townsend, MT 59644
Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, PO Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941
Don Drake, Jefferson Valley Sportsmen, Box 6, Whitehall, MT 59759
Vince Fischer, Skyline Sportsmen's Club, PO Box 173, Butte, MT 59703
Tony Garibaldi, Manhattan Wildlife Assoc., 107 Commercial Dr., Bozeman, MT 59715
Randy Newburg, Headwater Sportsmen's Assoc., 306 East Granite Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718
Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Assoc., c/o Fred Easy, PO Box 48, East Helena MT 59635-0048
Walleyes Unlimited, Helena Chapter, PO Box 5791, Helena, MT 59604
Walleyes Unlimited, Gallatin Valley Chapter, c/o Jerry Witmer, 2270 Shatto Dr., Belgrade, MT 59714
Walleyes Unlimited, Great Falls, c/o Ed Gierke, 110 So. Virginia St., Conrad, MT 59425
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, 316 No. Park Ave., Helena, MT 59601
Broadwater County Commissioners, County Courthouse, Townsend, MT 59644

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed, please find a decision notice for the Upper Missouri Reservoir Perch Habitat Project. After a review of this proposal, it is my decision to approve this project. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Korn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator

enc.

DECISION NOTICE
Canyon Ferry and Hauser Reservoir Perch Habitat Project
Prepared by Region 3, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
April 10, 2001

PROPOSAL

This project is a cooperative effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, the City of Helena, Montana Conservation Corps, Walleyes Unlimited, and the Broadwater Stream and Lake Committee. The proposal involves bundling, anchoring and sinking Christmas trees at up to 12 different locations throughout the two reservoirs.

The Upper Missouri River system that include Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter Reservoirs Canyon Ferry Reservoir are some of Montana's most popular recreational fisheries. Yellow perch are an important component of this fishery, particularly during the winter ice-fishing season. They also are an important prey species for walleye, burbot, and brown trout. The lack of natural structure in the reservoir has contributed to variable annual recruitment of yellow perch. This project will enhance the availability for spawning structure and hiding cover for yellow perch and may result in increased and/or stabilized recruitment.

Total estimated cost of this habitat project is \$31,490.00. Funding sources include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (\$11,960), Pennsylvania Power & Light (\$9600), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (\$3,750), and Helena Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited (\$2000), Great Falls Walleyes Unlimited (\$1000), Town Pump (\$2980), and the Townsend Chamber of Commerce (\$200.).

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS

FWP is required to assess impacts of the proposal to the human and physical environment. The project proposal and its effects were documented by FWP in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

A two-week public comment period on the EA ran from March 26, 2001 to April 6, 2001. Legal notices were placed in the Townsend Star and the Helena Independent Record detailing how to acquire copies of the EA and providing for comment on the proposal. The EA was sent to a standard mailing list, individuals requesting copies and posted on the State of Montana Electronic Bulletin Board.

There were no issues or concerns identified during the public comment.

DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and applicable laws, regulations and policies I have determined that this action will not have significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

FWP's analysis determined that benefits resulting from this proposal might result in increased and/or stabilized yellow perch recruitment. This may enhance recreational fishing opportunities for yellow perch and other species that rely on perch as forage. No comments opposing this project were received. It is therefore my decision to implement the proposed action and move forward this yellow perch habitat enhancement project.

By notification in this decision notice, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA without any modifications or additions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Korn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator
Helena, MT
April 10, 2001